



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

May 26, 2011

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From: William T Fujioka
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MOTION TO INSTRUCT THE SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES TO OPPOSE SB 276 (WRIGHT) (ITEM NO. 4, AGENDA OF MAY 31, 2011)

Item No. 4 on the May 31, 2011 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe recommending that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Sacramento advocates to oppose SB 276 (Wright), which would authorize the Executive Director of the California Science Center to appoint certain security and safety personnel if there is no Exposition Park Manager.

SB 276, as amended on May 10, 2011, would authorize the Executive Director of the California Science Center (CSC) to appoint the chief and assistant chief of museum security and safety and other safety officer appointments if there is no Exposition Park Manager.

Existing law requires the California Science Center to establish the position of Exposition Park Manager to be appointed by the Governor and provides that the position be responsible for administering all park-related events, including oversight for the police and security services of the park. Exposition Park is a 160-acre State property located in the City of Los Angeles which includes the County Museum of Natural History, the California Science Center and IMAX, California African American Museum, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Sports Arena, City EXPO Center and Rose Garden and Jesse Brewer Park, among other attractions. The Office of Exposition Park Management (OEPM) provides long-term leadership in the development and implementation of park usage policy and day-to-day management, operation, and promotion of the park for its tenants and the public.

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The Natural History Museum (NHM) indicates that SB 276 is intended to at least temporarily eliminate the OEPM, which was created by the Legislature in response to a State audit and an independent analysis that identified coordination issues and a need for a park manager position. Under the prior arrangement, CSC was responsible for both its own operation and for the operation of Exposition Park as a whole for the benefit of all the entities in the park. According to the NHM, since OEPM was created, there has been a clearer delineation of management functions and use of the funds that are generated by all the park entities and are segregated into a separate park fund. While much of that fund has been reallocated to support CSC rather than park-wide uses, OEPM continues to provide a means for park-wide issues to be addressed and funded from that fund. Further, OEPM coordinates events, maintenance and security for the park in a manner that does not give special priority to CSC over the needs of the other entities in the park.

According to the Natural History Museum, this measure would allow park management to revert from OEPM to CSC and the entities in the park would no longer benefit from the separate focus on park-wide needs, from the independent coordination of park activities, or from the more transparent expenditure of funds generated by users of all park entities. NHM notes that the rationale for the bill appears to be to reduce the expenditures in the park-wide fund by approximately \$300,000 per year, but this fund is separate from the State General Fund, so any realized savings could not be used to help address the State's budget deficit.

SB 276 is opposed by the City of Los Angeles and the Coliseum Commission. There is no registered support on file. This measure passed the Senate Agriculture Committee by a vote of 7 to 0 on May 3, 2011, and is currently awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor.

Because there is no existing policy to oppose proposals to authorize the Executive Director of the California Science Center to appoint certain security and safety personnel if there is no Exposition Park Manager, opposition to SB 276 is a matter for Board policy determination.

WTF:RA
MR:LY:er

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Natural History Museum